

Dan Leavitt

From: Arthur Ringham [a.ringham@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2005 10:59 AM
To: goodeh@samtrans.com
Cc: Dan Leavitt; rdiridon@hsr.ca.gov; Jim Robinson; Jim Janz
Subject: Workshop, San Jose, Dec 1

Hello Howard,

I attended the subject workshop and thought it quite worthwhile. Following are some comments:

CONSULTANTS

I was surprised that there were no representatives from the consultant teams doing the Bay Area to Central Valley Program EIR/EIS study in attendance at the workshop (unless they were there but not introduced). It would be desirable for them to hear comments firsthand to get their detail, emotion and flavor, rather than just get a written synopsis later.

I suggest they be present at future workshops.

OVERLAP

It seemed that the workshop comingled two overlapping studies:

1. The Bay Area to Central Valley EIR/EIS study by the California High Speed Rail Authority to recommend a fairly specific rail route for HSR to the Bay Area, with a scheduled completion date of July 2007 and

2. The Bay Area Regional Rail Plan study involving other (mostly rail) passenger transportation systems (and different legal entities which may have conflicting interests) within the greater Bay Area, but also including High Speed Rail. This study is also scheduled for completion in July 2007.

Although these two studies need to be coordinated, they should be separated insofar as possible and interfaces between them defined to keep both studies from getting bogged down in resolving conflicts. Where some aspects of the two studies conflict, resolution may not be practical through coordination before study completion dates and two separate "final reports". Provision should probably be made for an additional phase after July 2007 to resolve possible conflicts and complete an integrated plan.

CRITERIA

There are too many criteria and many are of a "motherhood and apple pie" nature which are difficult or impossible to measure.

If criteria can't be measured against, alternatives can't be compared and evaluated. The primary criteria, particularly for High Speed Rail, should be financial (return on capital) and answer the question "Which alternative is the best investment for California?"

Best wishes for success.

Jack Ringham